

**Environmental Management (EM)  
Nevada Program Activities  
Monthly Report to the  
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)  
May 2020**

Throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, EM Nevada Program has continued to fulfill its mission essential functions while following the guidelines of the Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, and other federal officials and state and local authorities. As the EM Nevada Program begins planning for a return to full operations, the health and safety of employees will remain its first priority. No timelines have been set, and EM Nevada Program will adapt its plans for a return to full operations based on the developing situation.

The Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) continued in a reduced-operations condition in April 2020. EM Nevada Program activities are restricted to those necessary to ensure the safety of the public, workers, and the environment.

EM Nevada Program and Navarro operations continued in a “full telework” posture in April 2020, meaning that all Program employees are working from home, with very few short-term exceptions made under special circumstances.

### **External Affairs**

- Publications:
  - Ongoing social media campaign
  - Published *DOE Marks Major Progress in Groundwater Cleanup at Nevada Site* article via EM News Flash <https://www.energy.gov/em/articles/doe-marks-major-progress-groundwater-cleanup-mission-nevada-site> – April 29, 2020
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
  - Conducted briefing with the Office of Legacy Management (LM) to U.S. Air Force and National Nuclear Security Administration on the transfer of responsibility for the closed Environmental Restoration sites accessed through the Tonopah Test Range from EM to LM via telecom – April 21, 2020
  - Hosted over 100 participants for the Waste Generator Workshop, conducted via virtual meeting – April 29-30, 2020
- NNSS Tours: None conducted in the month of April 2020
- Planned activities for May 2020:
  - Conduct interviews by telecom with NSSAB membership panel during the first week in May 2020
  - Host Low-level Waste Stakeholders Forum via virtual meeting – May 7, 2020
  - Host NSSAB administrative meeting via virtual meeting – May 20, 2020
  - Host EM Nevada Program Intergovernmental Meeting via virtual meeting (NSSAB leadership to attend) – May 20, 2020

## **Waste Disposal and Transportation**

- Shipments to the Area 5 disposal facility were suspended, with case-by-case exceptions to meet critical needs at generating sites. One generator received approval for four mission-critical shipments with a volume of 2,786 cubic feet that was disposed at the NNSS in April 2020.
- The EM Nevada Program deferred all Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP) facility evaluations requiring travel for the months of April and May 2020. The EM Nevada Program is revising the RWAP schedule for fiscal year 2020.
- Update from previous months' reports – Oak Ridge, TN generator: In September 2019, a facility evaluation resulted in three Findings. In March 2020, the generator submitted closure evidence for two of the Findings, which are under review by RWAP. The closure evidence for the remaining Finding is due in May 2020. (please see October – November 2019, April 2020 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous months' reports - Idaho Falls, ID generator: In October 2019, a facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. The generator submitted its corrective action plan (CAP) to RWAP and RWAP accepted it. The date for the generator to complete the CAP moved from April 2020 to May 2020. (please see November 2019, January 2020, April 2020 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous months' reports – Erwin, TN generator: In February 2020, a facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. In April 2020, the generator submitted its CAP that RWAP is reviewing. (please see March 2020 – April 2020 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)

## **Underground Test Area (UGTA)**

### ***Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat***

Work on the Closure Report continued in April 2020 and will continue in May 2020.

### ***CAU 101/102, Pahute Mesa***

In April 2020, the Geochemistry Report was in internal review for addressing comments, but is delayed until June 2020. The Pahute Mesa Hydrologic Data Document is under preparation for internal review. In April 2020, work began building the preliminary groundwater flow model.

## **Industrial Sites**

### ***CAU 577, Area 5 Chromium Contaminated Waste Disposal Cells***

CAU 577 comprises five Corrective Action Sites (CASs) located at the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex. A draft Corrective Action Decision Document/CAP submitted to the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in September 2019; comment resolution and work on the document continued in April 2020 and will continue in May 2020.

## **Post-Closure Monitoring**

### ***Non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Post-Closure Monitoring Sites***

The Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include CASs where post-closure inspections and maintenance performed in accordance with closure requirements. Maintenance identified during the December 2019 annual inspections will continue throughout the calendar year.

### ***RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites***

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. In April 2020, irrigation of the CAU 111 revegetation test plots continued and will continue in May 2020. Monthly monitoring of the test plots postponed until further notice.